



California
Department of
Child Support
Services

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 17, 2007

CONTACT: T. Maria Caudill
(916) 464-5188
Cell (916) 798-0586

Federal Certification Process Begins for State's Child Support Computer System

California Moves Toward Federal Compliance and Away From Automation Penalties

SACRAMENTO – The federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) today kicked off a detailed certification review of the California Child Support Automation System (CCSAS) at the Department of Child Support Services' (DCSS) headquarters in Rancho Cordova. Today's certification review kickoff is the first in a series of site visits from OCSE's federal certification review team that will continue through 2008.

"Child support is a safety net for many California families, and the California Child Support Automation System will give us the ability to better serve children and families with the financial support they need and deserve," said DCSS Director Greta Wallace. "We look forward to working with federal officials during the certification review process to provide California with a new statewide system that will enable us to deliver uniform, high-quality services to families while managing program performance."

Overseen by DCSS and managed by the Franchise Tax Board, the CCSAS project has drawn on technical expertise from state officials, the private sector and county child support professionals to develop and design a system that meets federal requirements and encompasses the complexity of California's child support program.

"The cutting-edge technology of the California Child Support Automation System directly benefits California's children," said J. Clark Kelso, California State Chief Information Officer. "Today's kickoff is a true milestone, proving that through cooperation, innovation and commitment across state, federal and local government, we can deliver services that improve lives."

In November 2005, county child support agencies began transitioning to a centralized statewide system that is responsible for collecting and disbursing all child support payments previously processed by the state's 52 local child support agencies. In its first 13 months of operation, more than \$1.6 billion in child support payments were issued to families through the new system.

BACKGROUND

Federal law requires states to:

- Implement a single statewide automated child support system.
- Implement a single location for processing child support collections and payments for cases handled by local child support agencies and all child support wage withholding payments through employers, including private child support wage withholding payments.
- Provide statewide case management capabilities.
- Streamline the receipt and disbursement of child support collections and reduce costs.

-more-

1



California
Department of
Child Support
Services

California's delay in meeting these requirements has resulted in significant federal penalties, which will end during the federal certification process. When the system is certified, California will receive 90 percent of the 2006 penalty payment back from the federal government. The Schwarzenegger Administration, working with IBM and Bank of America, has applied innovative technologies to build the largest child support automated system in the nation. This process has encompassed folding 58 separate county systems into one unified whole, thereby meeting federal requirements while providing new levels of service for California's families.

DCSS has sought the active participation of local child support agencies. This ongoing partnership is a critical component in the state's development of a system that will better serve California families and increase the state's ability to put child support dollars into the hands of children and families.

DCSS is responsible for ensuring effective implementation of all functions necessary to establish, collect and distribute child support for the child support program. In 2006, DCSS collected approximately \$2.3 billion and served more than two million children.

Child support program services are delivered through 52 local child support agencies. The following services are available at no cost to the public: locating a parent; establishing paternity; establishing, modifying and enforcing a court order for child support; and establishing, modifying and enforcing an order for health insurance coverage.

For more information, log on to <http://www.childsup.ca.gov/>.

-oOo-